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Covid-19 Community Mobility Report: Google

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Why in News

Google has released '**COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports**'. These reports aim to provide insights into what has changed in response to policies aimed at combating **COVID-19**.

- The reports **cover 131 countries** and chart movement trends over time by geography, across different categories of places such as retail and recreation, groceries and pharmacies, parks, transit stations, workplaces, and residential.
- The report comes at a time when communities across the globe are looking at measures such as **social distancing** as a key action to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The company said it adopted technical measures to ensure that no individual could be identified through the new reports. The reports have been **developed according to the company's stringent privacy protocols and policies**.
- Google is an **American search engine company founded in 1998** by Serge Brin and Larry Page. It is a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc.

Finding Related to India

- In the wake of the **March 22 'Janata Curfew'** and the subsequent ongoing **21-day nationwide lockdown**, **public movement in India** at areas with restaurants, pharmacies, parks and workplaces had declined while movement in residential areas had increased.
- The data is **based on the 5-week period Jan 3–Feb 6, 2020** and the **first few days of the lockdown period**.
- There has been a **dip of 77% in mobility trends** for places like restaurants, cafes, shopping centres and movie theaters and a **65% drop at grocery markets**, food warehouses, farmers' markets and pharmacies.
- A **57% fall for places like public beaches** and gardens, a **71% decline at public transport hubs** and a **47% drop for places of work**.

- However, the **mobility trends in the places of residence category** showed an **increase of 22%**.
- These reports will **help support decisions about how to manage the COVID-19 pandemic**. For example, the information could help officials understand changes in essential trips that can shape recommendations on business hours or inform delivery service offerings.

Movement Across Other Countries

- Reports compared traffic from Feb 16 to March 29 to retail and recreational venues, train and bus stations, grocery stores and workplaces with a five-week period (Jan 3-Feb 6).
- **Italy and Spain**, two of the hardest-hit countries, both saw visits to retail and recreation locations such as **restaurants and movie theaters fall 94%**.
- The **United Kingdom, France and Philippines** had **declines of more than 80%**.
- In Japan and Sweden, where authorities have not imposed harsh restrictions, visits to retail and recreation sites **fell by roughly only a quarter**.
- While in South Korea, which has successfully contained a large outbreak through aggressive testing and **contact tracing**, the **decline was just 19%**.
- There were **no reports for China and Iran**, where Google services are blocked.

Source: TH